

**From:** Steve Townsend  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 10:17pm  
**Subject:** Re: U.S. v. Microsoft: Settlement Information

To Whom It May Concern,

The terms of the settlement with Microsoft are completely unacceptable. I hope that it is apparent to those persons in power to make such decisions that Microsoft will not be stemmed from their monopolistic practices with any settlement that allows them such freedom of interpretation.

They (Microsoft) have shown their contempt for and avoidance of any measures attempting to restrict their behavior. It was obvious from the demeanor of CEO Bill Gates during the trial and the continuation of monopolistic practices by Microsoft during the trial and after the findings of guilt that anything short of structural changes to the company will be ineffectual in limiting their monopolistic tendencies.

Microsoft is positioning to extend its reach into key areas of our emerging economy. The operating system monopoly that they enjoy is allowing them to push their .Net product. Microsoft, who's record on security issues is horrendous, is looking to become part of all internet financial transactions by forcing the .Net infrastructure and wants us to entrust them with our sensitive data. Their browser monopoly will insure that the interface for virtually all internet shoppers will be controlled by Microsoft. Their monopolistic might is forcing restrictive marketing of the MSN network product.

Microsoft has a history of pushing ahead with it's own 'standards' circumventing the international standards committees that help to provide a secure and level playing field. The fact that 99.99% of all viruses and data security threats that exist thrive on Microsoft technology. The holes in Microsoft programs that are left to provide businesses easy marketing opportunities are included at the expense of public privacy and security concerns.

In a marketplace free of the heavy handed monopolist NO customer would opt to expose themselves to the additional risk involved in using Microsoft internet products. Whatever the final solution, it must prevent the continued free reign by this megalomaniacal corporation.

Sincerely,  
Stephen J. Townsend  
Cottage Grove, MN